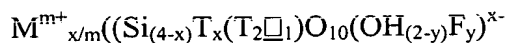


Amendments To The Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The general chemical formula (for a half-cell) of dioctahedral 2:1 phyllosilicates, preferably synthesized in a fluoride medium in the presence of HF acid and/or another source of fluoride anions, before bridging is as follows:



where

- T represents an element selected from the group formed by elements from group IIIA (such as B, Al, Ga) and iron;
- M is at least one compensating cation selected from the group formed by cations of elements from groups IA, IIA and VIII, organic cations containing nitrogen, the ammonium cation, and rare earth cations. The cation originates from the reaction medium or is introduced by at least one exchange process. Advantageously, the cation from the reaction medium is selected from the group formed by alkalis (except lithium), the ammonium cation (NH_4^+), organic cations containing nitrogen (including alkylammonium and arylammonium) and organic cations containing phosphorous (including alkylphosphonium and arylphosphonium). M can also be a compensating cation introduced by post-synthesis ion exchange, selected from the group formed by cations of elements from groups IA, IIA and VIII of the periodic table, rare earth cations (cations of elements with atomic number 57 to 71 inclusive), organic cations containing nitrogen (including alkylammonium and arylammonium) and the ammonium cation;

- m is the valency of cation M;
- x is a number in the range 0 to 2, preferably in the range 0.1 to 0.8;
- B1* • y greater than 0, preferably in the range 0 to 2; highly preferably, y is greater than 0 and 2 or less;
- \square represents an octahedral cavity.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B2 The feed and the catalyst are brought into contact in the presence of hydrogen. The amount of hydrogen used, expressed in litres of hydrogen per litre of feed, is in the range of 50 to about 2000 litres of hydrogen per litre of feed, preferably in the range of about 100 to 1500 litres of hydrogen per litre of feed.